

**REMARKS**

Claims 7, 9-11 and 13-26 are pending. Claims 7, 13, and 20 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

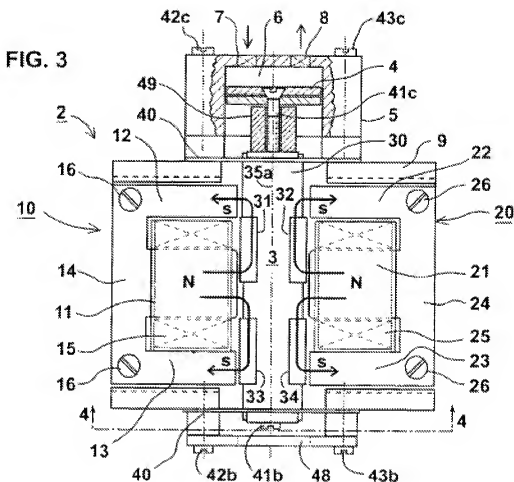
**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 9-10, 13-17, 19-23 and 25-26 under 35 USC §103(a) over US Patent No. 6,323,568 to Zabar in view of German Patent Number 1146678 to Rumswinkel. Further, the Office Action also rejects claims 11, 18 and 24 under 35 USC §103(a) over Zabar and Rumswinkel in further view of US Patent No. 3,678,308 to Howe. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 recites, in combination, “wherein the spring is configured as a leaf spring and when the armature part is at the equilibrium position the spring is pre-tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part.” Claim 13 recites, in combination, “wherein when the armature part is in the center position, the point of application of the spring on the armature part is axially displaced a predetermined distance from the clamped position of the spring, such that the spring is pre-tensioned by the axial displacement.” Claim 20 recites, in combination, “wherein the spring is configured to be pre-tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part when the armature part is at the equilibrium position.” These features in the above independent claims are not taught or suggested by the alleged Zabar/Rumswinkel or Zabar/Rumswinkel/Howe combinations.

Applicants’ discovered that embodiments containing the above claimed features (e.g., pre-tensioned springs when the armature is at the equilibrium position) result in certain advantages including, for example, “lower electrical losses, a higher efficiency, and the fact that the armature movement is easier to control and regulate. In addition, the start-up properties of the drive unit are thus improved.” (See Paragraph 9 of Original Specification).

With respect to the primary reference, Zabar, while a leaf spring is disclosed, the leaf spring in Zabar is not pre-tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part when the armature part is in an equilibrium position.



As can be seen in Zabar's recreated Fig. 3, when the plunger is in the equilibrium position, the springs are at rest (e.g., not tensioned transverse to the plunger). Indeed, it is only when the plunger is not at its equilibrium position that the armature "is resisted by a pair of leaf springs 40 each yieldingly mounting one end of the plunger to the electromagnets." (Column 3, Lines 53-55). Accordingly, Zabar does not teach or suggest the above recited features of Claim 7, 13, and 20.

The alleged combination of Rumswinkel to Zabar does not cure this deficiency in Zabar. The armature in Rumswinkel, like the armature in Zabar, is completely at rest in its equilibrium position. Figures 2 and 3 of Rumswinkel merely show displaced springs in relation to their lower ends (41). However, as Rumswinkel's armature is completely at rest, and is further at the equilibrium point of the armature, the springs are not tensioned (pre or otherwise) transverse to the direction of movement of the armature. In contrast, Applicants' claim 20 requires, for example, that "the spring is configured to be pre-tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part when the armature part is at the equilibrium position." As recited above, Applicants' other independent claims 7 and 13 set forth similar features. As such, Rumswinkel fails to make up for the above deficiencies of Zabar.

Further, Howe does not supply the above missing teachings from Zabar or Rumswinkel. Accordingly, the alleged Zabar/Rumswinkel combination fails to render obvious claims 7, 13, and 20 (and their respective dependents). Withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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